

One of the most important aspects of being a leader is developing and maintaining resiliency in our ranks. That was the counsel IMCOM-E senior enlisted advisor, CSM Barry Maieritsch, gave to the graduates of Warrior Leader Course Class 02-11, Friday during their graduation ceremony at Grafenwoehr Training Area.

“As a graduate of the Warrior Leader Course, you are expected to be more than just a refined Soldier, who is competent at land navigation, able to pass a physical fitness test, and qualified at war fighting skills. You are expected to be a leader,” Maieritsch said.

Maieritsch, who just recently assumed the position as the IMCOM-E command sergeant major, is a veteran of several deployments and understands the vital importance of building and maintaining resiliency. Maieritsch shared his views on this with the 217 graduating Soldiers, which included three Soldiers from the Namibia Defense Force and two from the Army of the Czech Republic.

“You will be expected to mitigate a crisis in the ranks during difficult times.... You will be expected to counsel fellow Soldiers in moments of despair or sorrow. You will be expected to recognize which of Resiliency’s five dimensions of strength a fellow Soldier may need help strengthening: emotional, social, spiritual, family or physical,” he told the graduates.

Maieritsch explained that during and following his deployments, he has sensed a weakening in the emotional strength of a few fellow Soldiers and observed social weakening in others. “I have seen veterans, old and new, suffering,” he said.

“You might be forming an opinion that I’m nosy, that I do a lot of eavesdropping. You’re right!” he said. “I’m a leader and I care. So, I watch and listen.” Some people who need help simply need to speak talk to someone. Maieritsch said he saw a positive change during and following his last deployment: Today’s leaders are stepping up to bolster resiliency.

In closing, he charged the graduates to be leaders focused on resiliency in their ranks.

“Watch and listen. Have the courage to question those who appear weakened so that they may be strengthened.”